

ALL OUR CHILDREN BELONG

A startling new report on how institutionalised racism and disabilism is affecting life chances for disabled children

Parents for Inclusion's new report *All Our Children Belong* was launched at Lambeth Town Hall on Tuesday 23 March 2004. This report describes the uniquely challenging experience faced by Black and minority ethnic families with disabled children in Britain. It contains interviews with both parents and disabled children on how racism and disabilism profoundly affect their lives.

The All Our Children Belong report is the result of a dynamic 3-year pilot project run by Parents for Inclusion, which examined common experiences faced by this group. Most families with disabled children experience injustices, hardships and isolation but for Black and minority ethnic families the experience is made much harder by institutionalised racism and disabilism. Double prejudice is having a devastating effect upon the lives of these children. BME children with disabilities are over-represented in special schools and segregated education. Black boys are 4 times more likely to be excluded from school than any other group. This despite the fact that most impairments are not directly caused by ethnicity or socio-economic status.

The report shows that compared to white disabled children, Black disabled children are more likely to: be excluded from school, be poorer, have less of their social, educational and health needs met, and to face a bleak future segregated from the rest of society with limited independence and employment opportunities.

All parents of disabled children may have other needs such as: housing, access to services and information, more money, more support with helping their child and planning their child's future, support during the school holidays, respite, and help with sleep/behaviour problems. But research shows that while both white and BME families have similar needs, BME families have twice as many unmet needs compared to their white counterparts.

Download '*All our Children Belong*' Report - pdf format (600 kb)
www.parentsforinclusion.org/pressrel.htm